

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 05045 241055Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /071 W

----- 004713

R 240845Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3997

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

EC BRUSSELS 65

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 5045

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, GW, SN, ASEAN, EC

SUBJECT: TRIP OF SENIOR GERMAN OFFICIAL TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: STATE 252901

SUMMARY:

DURING TALKS ON NOVEMBER 9 COVERING BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUBJECTS, SENIOR GOS REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED FRG STATE MINISTER MOERSCH OF THEIR CONCERNS REGARDING RESILIENCE OF WORLD TRADING SYSTEM AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SEA, PARTICULARLY THE POSSIBILITY THAT REGION COULD BECOME SITE FOR A SUPER-POWER CLASH. MOERSCH SOUGHT TO ASSURE HIS HOST THAT FRG AND EC INTERESTS IN REGION WERE BROAD IN SCOPE AND BASED ON A COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER OF STATE KARL MOERSCH, FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 05045 241055Z

VISITED SINGAPORE FROM NOVEMBER 9 - 10 ON FIRST STOP

IN SEA. HE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARTNAM;
MFA SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE LEE KHOON CHOY; AND NGIAM
TONG DOW, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE,
AND DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD. ON NOVEMBER 19,
FRG EMBASSY HERE BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICER ON PRINCIPAL
POINTS COVERED DURING THE CONVERSATIONS.

2. ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS. MAIN CONCERN OF
MOERSCH'S GOS INTERLOCUTORS APPEARED TO FOCUS ON TRADE
MATTERS. RAJARATNAM EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE WORLD WAS
DRIFTING INTO AN ECONOMIC CRISIS AND STRESSED HOPE FOR
CLOSER EC-ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE APPEALED FOR
EC RESISTANCE TO INTERNAL PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES AS
WELL AS ANY SUCH TENDENCIES ON THE PART OF THIRD
COUNTRIES AND REQUESTED THE EC TO PURSUE ENERGETICALLY
POLICIES WHICH WOULD SERVE TO PROMOTE WORLD TRADE.
RAJARATNAM ALSO WARNED AGAINST THE EC COUNTRIES FALLING
INTO THE SAME HABIT AS HAD THE JAPANESE; THAT IS,
LOOKING UPON SEA COUNTRIES SOLELY AS RAW MATERIALS
PRODUCERS AND BEING UNWILLING TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY
INTO THE REGION.

3. POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONCERNS. RAJARATNAM AND
LEE REPEATED WELL-KNOWN OFFICIAL GOS VIEWS ON REGIONAL
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. REFERRING TO HIS PRC TRIP,
RAJARATNAM ASSERTED THAT "EVEN CHINA" DOES NOT DESIRE
AN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SEA. LEE STATED HIS FEAR
THAT SEA COULD BECOME LOCUS OF USSR-PRC SUPERPOWER
CLASH MUCH AS MIDDLE EAST HAD BECOME VENUE FOR US-USSR
CONFLICT. DISCUSSING SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, RAJARATNAM
ASSERTED THAT USSR IS COMINANT FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN HANOI
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF AID GIVEN DRV; THAT PRC IS PARAMOUNT
IN CAMBODIA AND WAS BEHIND RECENT RESUMPTION OF RTG -
CAMBODIA RELATIONS; AND, THAT PRG IS MOST INFLUENTIAL
EXTERNAL INFLUENCE IN LAOS, RAJARATNAM ALSO VOICED
CONCERN OVER INTENTIONS OF VIETNAM, PARTICULARLY AS
REGARDS DISPOSAL OF THE U.S. WEAPONS LEFT THERE.

4. ON SUBJECT OF GOS/SEA RELATIONSHIPS WITH EUROPE,
RAJARATNAM SAID THAT SEA LEADER DESIRE COOPERATION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 05045 241055Z

WITH THE CLOSE TIES TO WESTERN EUROPE. HE REFERRED
TO THE CULTURAL AND "SPIRITUAL" BONDS STILL EXTANT
BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS AND STATED THE CONVICTION THAT
THESE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FURTHER. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS
OPPORTUNITY SHOULD NOT BE LOST SINCE THE PRESENT
INCLINATION ON THE PART OF SEA LEADERS TO WORK
TOGETHER WITH EUROPE MIGHT BE TRANSITIONAL.

5. ASEAN. NGIAM PROVIDED MOERSCH WITH STANDARD OPTIMISTIC GOS VIEW REGARDING ECONOMIC FUTURE OF GROUPING. HE STATED BELIEF THAT FREE TRADE ZONE WILL BE ACHIEVED, BUT HE DID NOT FURNISH A TIMETABLE. SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES WERE PORTRAYED AS COUNTRIES MOST ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH GENERAL TARIFF REDUCTIONS; OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS WERE SAID TO FAVOR SECTORAL TARIFF CUTS. ON POLITICAL SIDE, RAJARATNAM SAID SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FIGURED IN ASEAN DELIBERATIONS, BUT WERE NOT OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO NECESSITY FOR AVOIDING APPEARANCE OF SEEKING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES. ACCORDING TO RAJARATNAM, SOVIETS HE MEETS HERE AND ABROAD ARE MOST INTERESTED IN SECURITY ASPECT OF INTRA-ASEAN RELATIONS.

6. IN RESPONSE TO THESE PRESENTATIONS, MOERSCH ASSURED HIS SINGAPORE HOSTS OF FRG INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE AND ASEAN. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THERE IS AN IDENTITY OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS BETWEEN THE EC AND ASEAN, AND THAT BOTH REGIONAL GROUPINGS EXERCISE A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN WORLD FORUMS. HE STATED THAT THE FRG IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ASEAN WOULD CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TIES. HOWEVER, APPARENTLY SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EC, MOERSCH SAID THAT THERE ALSO EXISTS A DESIRE TO INTENSIFY THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE EC WOULD APPEAR IN THIS RESPECT TO BE AN IDEAL PARTNER FOR ASEAN, SINCE IT HAD NO GEOPOLITICAL INTEREST IN THE REGION. EC NATIONS HAVE NO WISH TO EXPORT THEIR SOCIAL SYSTEMS, BUT MERELY DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH COUNTRIES ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP ALONG LINES OF THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 SINGAP 05045 241055Z

OWN CHOOSING.
HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, SECURITY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, ECONOMIC TRENDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP05045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750408-0755
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751115/aaaaandd.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 252901
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIP OF SENIOR GERMAN OFFICIAL TO SOUTHEAST ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, GE, SN, EC, ASEAN, (MOERSCH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006